What is claimed:

1. A method for making an alumina-silica catalyst support comprising:
    a. providing a homogenous plasticized batch comprising an alumina-silica powder component in combination with a liquid, an organic binder and an acid of at least 0.25 % by weight of the mixture, wherein the alumina-silica powder component is compounded to yield a composition consisting essentially of 2-25 wt.% silica and 75-98 wt.% alumina;
    b. extruding the plasticized batch to form a green preform;
    c. drying the green preform; and,
    d. heating the green preform to a temperature and for a time to provide an alumina-silica body with a surface area of at least 180 m^2/g suitable for use as a catalyst support.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein alumina-silica powder component is formed by mixing gamma-alumina, boehmite, pseudo-boehmite and mixtures therefore, together with a fused quartz.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the alumina-silica powder component is formed by:
    a. providing a slurry of an alumina-source and silicon alkoxide, wherein the alumina-source is selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxide, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum oxyhydroxide and mixtures thereof;
    b. spray drying the slurry;
    c. heating the spray dried material to a temperature of between 500-700°C for a period of 1-5 hours to form a calcined material.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the acid is added to the slurry to obtain a pH of between 1-5.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the alumina-silica powder component is formed by:
    a. providing a slurry comprising an alumina-source selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxide, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum oxyhydroxide and mixtures thereof;
    b. spraying drying the slurry to obtain a first particulate material;
    c. heating the first particulate material to a temperature of between 500-700°C for a period of 1-5 hours to form an alumina-containing calcined material;
    d. forming a second slurry comprising the alumina-containing calcined material in combination with silicon alkoxide; and,
    e. spray drying the second slurry.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the acid is added to the slurry to obtain a pH of between 1-5.

7. The method of claim 1wherein the alumina-silica powder component is formed by:
    a. providing a slurry comprising of an alumina-source selected from the group consiting of aluminum oxide, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum oxyhydroxide and mixtures thereof;
    b. spraying drying the slurry;
    c. heating the spray dried material to a temperature of between 500-700°C for a period of 1-5 hours to form an alumina-containing calcined material; and,
    d. adding silicon alkoxide to the alumina-containing calcined material.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the acid is added to the slurry to obtain a pH of between 1-5.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the green preform is a honeycomb monolith.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the alumina-silica catalyst has a surface area of at least 250 m^2/g.